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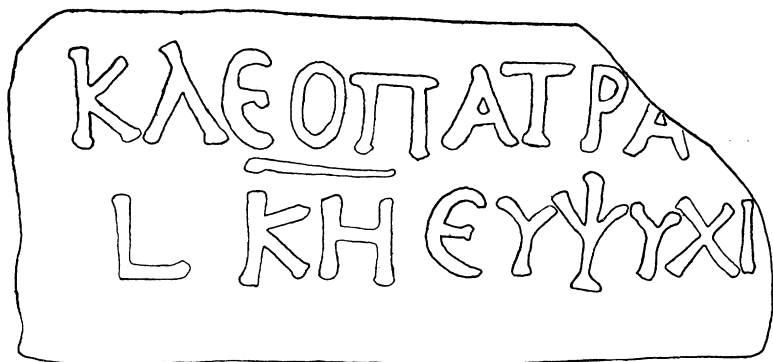
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FIELD MUSEUM INSCRIPTIONS

BY EDGAR J. GOODSPEED

The Field Columbian Museum has recently received from Mr. S. L. James, of Chicago, a collection of Egyptian antiquities. (Accession 955). These objects were secured by Mr. James's father in the course of a visit to Egypt made some years ago, and were sent by him to Chicago, where they remained stored away until his death in 1903, when his heirs turned them over to the Field Museum. From certain tickets and papers accompanying the collection it appears that it was formerly located at Sidi Gâber, between Alexandria and Ramleh, where it was exhibited in connection with a reputed Tomb of Cleopatra.¹ Doubtless some woman of that name was buried there, witness the first inscription that appears below. The chief treasure of the collection is a superb stone sarcophagus of the first century after Christ. Among the objects included in the collection three or four are of interest for Greek and Latin epigraphy.

1. Marble tablet with epitaph. (26767). $12.5 \times 26 \times 2.2$ cm. Found probably near Sidi Gâber about 1888. The upper right



Κλεοπάτρα

(ἐτῶν) κη εὐψύχι.

¹On ancient tombs near Sidi Gâber cf. H. Thiersch *Zwei Grabanlagen bei Alexandria* (Berlin: Reimer, 1904); also *American Journal of Archaeology*, II Series, VIII, p. 468. The tombs there described are assigned to early Ptolemaic times.

hand corner is broken off, but no letters seem to have been lost. The letters are rudely cut.

It would seem to have been this tablet that encouraged the Egyptian owners of the collection to describe the site where they exhibited it as the tomb of Cleopatra. The disposition to connect Sidi Gâber with the name of Cleopatra appears also in the proposed identification of the colossal Osiris and Isis heads, said to have been found there sixty years ago and still lying in a field there, as representing Antony and Cleopatra.

L. 2. L. εὐψύχει "farewell" as frequently in mummy labels and epitaphs; cf. Εὐψύχει, Βάσιλλα· οὐδεὶς ἀθάνατος. (*Anthol. Pal.* 402.)

2. Marble fragments 5×7 cm. Found probably near Sidi Gâber, about 1888.



. . . .
] . [
]CEBA[
]EWC[
]AC[

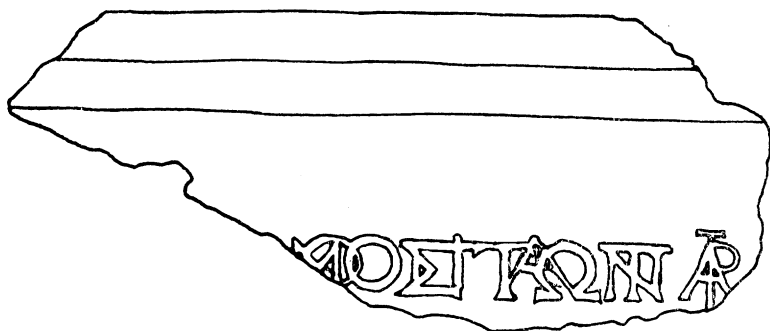
Lines 2-3 may represent

σεβα[στοῦ
 βασιλ]έως [

but other restorations are quite as possible.

Line 4 should perhaps be read]λε[

3. Fragment of bluish marble, from the top of a tablet, of which the molded upper edge is preserved. (26766.) Cm. 17.8×7.6×6.3. Found probably near Sidi Gâber, about 1888.



]ΜΟΣ ΤΩΝ Α[

]ΟΠΑΤΡ The latter inscription is in larger letters, less deeply cut, and was perhaps the earlier. The former suggests ὁ δῆμος τῶν Ἀ[λεξανδρέων, and the tablet may have recorded a decree of Alexandria.

4. Stamped brick. (26768). Roman. Color, light reddish-brown. Second century A. D. 12×13×4 cm.



Op(us) dol(iare) ex f(iglinis) Domit(ianis) maior(ibus).

Cf. *CIL*. XV. I. No. 169 *a* (p. 56) of the same volume has this stamp, of which eleven specimens are there noted. The

date is in the time of Marcus or Commodus, 161-93 A. D. (p. 46). The emblem in the center is a dog or wolf. The crescent measures 10.7 cm. in diameter. This stamp does not appear among those recently found in the débris of a part of the Aurelian Wall at Rome, and catalogued by Messrs. Pfeiffer, Van Buren and Armstrong ("Stamps on Bricks and Tiles from the Aurelian Wall at Rome," *Supplementary Papers of the American School of Classical Studies in Rome* I, pp. 1-86).

While this stamped brick came to the Field Museum as part of Mr. James's Egyptian collection, and thus presumably from Sidi Gâber near Ramleh, it is altogether probable that the brick was secured by Mr. James himself in the vicinity of Rome, and simply forwarded with the Egyptian collection to Chicago. Not a few of the registered specimens of this type were found, it would appear, at about the time of Mr. James's visit to Rome.

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